

MEMORANDUM FOR: The 303 Committee  
SUBJECT : Chile: March 1969 Congressional Election  
REFERENCE : Minutes of the 303 Committee Meeting of  
12 July 1968

1. PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM

On 12 July 1968, the 303 Committee met to consider a proposal originated by Ambassador Korry to influence the composition of the Chilean Congress to be elected in 1969.

The proposal was approved with the stipulation that periodic progress reports be submitted on the activities designed to meet this objective. This is the first progress report prepared by the election team.

2. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

a. In the period 12 July through 14 August 1968, there were several political developments which bear on the Chilean congressional election. Two political parties elected new governing directorates: The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) elected a directorate whose orientation represents some

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weakening in the influence of President Frei and a corresponding rise in that of Radomiro Tomic, a leading candidate for the 1970 presidential nomination and a man who favors a coalition of leftist (including Communist and Socialist) forces; and the National Party elected a directorate which is now more completely behind the candidacy of the former President, Jorge Alessandri who, according to a recent poll conducted in Santiago by a local newspaper, is the overwhelming presidential choice of the electorate in that area.

b. A review of the Radical Party and the situation of its moderate membership has caused the election team to be less optimistic that the Radicals should be considered on equal terms with the Nationals and Christian Democrats as beneficiaries of selective support. This conclusion is based on the increasing awareness that, with the exception of one or two individuals, the Radical Party leadership will support en masse an alliance with the Communist/Socialist FRAP in 1970. That the anti-FRAP moderates will not be able to serve as a brake on extremist elements, therefore, eliminates almost all of them from overall election support.

c. Two other developments could well affect the 1969 election. There is increased dissension within the Marxist camp between the relatively moderate tactical line of the Communist Party and the accelerated revolutionary activity of

the Socialist Party. The second development is the very serious drought in Chile which is likely to drive up food prices and create as many as 200,000 unemployed farm workers. The leftist opposition can be expected to use the problems created by the drought to bring more pressure on the government and on the PDC.

### 3. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ELECTION PLAN

The Mission's election team is engaged in the collection and analysis of information on individual candidates and their chances for victory. Although the party lists will not become final until the 2 November 1968 deadline, the following tentative conclusions have been reached by the election team:

### The objective

of this assistance is to enable this party to survive as a divisive force within the FRAP camp and thus to make more

difficult any FRAP/Radical alliance. Any votes for this new party [REDACTED] will come from those votes normally going to the Socialist and Communist candidates. This tactic will therefore benefit the moderate, democratic candidates opposing them.

#### 4. EXPENDITURES

No funds have been expended for election activities to date. While no cost figure on the support [REDACTED] mentioned above is calculable at this time, it is estimated that from [REDACTED]